

Hospital infections and compliance with hygiene standards

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Background

Approximately 4 100 000 patients are estimated to acquire a healthcare-associated infection (HAI) in the EU each year. About 20–30% of HAI are considered to be preventable by intensive hygiene and control programs, however adherence with hygiene standards is still suboptimal.

The purpose of this research is to understand what are the factors affecting the decision-making process concerning the adoption of a particular behavior by health professionals.

Methods

The the Healthcare Associated Infection Knowledge (HAIK) project is composed of five studies as follows:

The first study is a cross-sectional survey to collect information on what is institutionally being done to secure a protection of patients against infections when being hospitalized. The second study is qualitative/quantitative study to understand the factors affecting the decision-making process concerning the adoption of a particular behavior. A number of physicians working in hospitals will be asked questions about their views on infection protection, their perception of colleagues' behavior, the perception of causes and motives for misconduct, Etc. The third study is a surveillance study to evaluate the incidence of HAI. The fourth study is an observational study. It is planned to observe physicians and health care personnel from different hospital wards. It is intended to cover target persons completely for complete shifts. The last study is a randomized control trial to evaluate the effectiveness of different forms of training in order to increase adherence rates to hygiene standards

Results

The study protocol was prepared, for the submission to Ethical Committee.

Conclusion

The prevention of HAI has been addressed from different points of view, but studies that have tried to validate a model of behavior are still limited. We would like to provide a better understanding of the reasons that induce health practitioners not to adopt a behavior of proven effectiveness.

Key message

- The prevention of HAI has been addressed from different points of view and a better understanding of the reasons that induce health practitioners not to adopt a behavior of proven effectiveness